

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application, of which Claims 1, 9, 15 and 16 are in independent form. Claims 1, 3, 4, 9-12, 15 and 16 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,114,837 (Nakanishi).

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from *Nakanishi* in view of U.S. Patent 6,309,045 (Suzuki et al.); Claims 3 and 4 were rejected as being obvious from *Nakanishi* in view of U.S. Patent 4,701,912 (Bueno et al.); and Claims 7 and 8 were rejected as being obvious from *Nakanishi* in view of U.S. Patent 5,936,740 (Fukazawa et al.).

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a multifunction apparatus, which is so adapted that any device of a plurality of types can be selectively attached thereto, for executing control that differs depending upon the type of device attached. The apparatus of Claim 1 comprises transmitting means for transmitting a timing signal, which is for acquiring identifying information stored in an attached device, to the attached device, and receiving means for receiving the identifying information represented as digital information comprising a plurality of bits that has been sent serially from the attached device in accordance with the timing signal. Also provided are determination means for determining, with regard to a device of a specific type, whether specific data contained in the identifying information is indicative of a predetermined value, the specific data comprising two or

more bits including different values, and the number of bits being less than that of the plurality of bits. In addition, control means are provided for exercising control upon construing that the attached device is of the specific type in a case where the determination means has determined that the specific data is indicative of the predetermined value.

Among other important features of Claim 1 is that the multifunction device receives identifying information represented as digital information comprising a plurality of bits that has been sent serially from attached device, and determines a type of the attached device by specific data contained in the identifying information. More specifically, the specific data comprises two or more bits and includes different values. If the specific data is indicative of a predetermined value, the device is determined to be a specific type.

By virtue of this feature, even if a device has been attached unsatisfactorily due to the incorrect attachment by a user or the contamination of contacting parts with dust, malfunction caused by erroneous identification can be prevented.

Nakanishi relates to a battery-operating multi-functional apparatus to which an inkjet head or a scanner head is selectively attached. When the battery is low, that fact can be discriminated, whichever type of device is attached. To this end, the battery is set to a threshold value that is one value for scanning and another value for printing. As a result, by discriminating using this threshold which type of device is attached, an accurate evaluation can be made as to whether the battery output is becoming too low taking into account the type of device.

However, Applicant notes that in the *Nakanishi* apparatus, the determination

is based on a voltage value as shown in Fig. 4, and hence the digital information comprising a plurality of bits is not used as identifying information. Applicant submits that nothing in *Nakanishi* would teach or suggest the feature in question, and accordingly submits that Claim 1 is plainly allowable over that patent.

Moreover, even if *Bueno* is assume to show all that it is cited for, that would not supply what is missing from *Nakanishi* as a reference against Claim 1, which accordingly allowable over both patents, taken separately or in any permissible combination (if there is any).

Each of the other independent claims is respectively a method, program product or memory-medium claim corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and is allowable over those two patents for the same reasons as discussed above.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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